

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6349722 B1
TITLE: Respiratory humidification system

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BSPV:

humidity sensing means which senses the humidity of said
gases flow being
supplied to said patient,

BSPV:

storage means which stores said alarm times for a number of
associated sensed
humidity values, and

BSPV:

i) receive input of said sensed humidity value from said
humidity sensing
means,

BSPV:

ii) obtain from said storage means the alarm time
associated with said sensed
humidity value,

DEPR:

Thus, at least in the preferred form, the present invention
incorporating all
or some of the above described features provides a
respiratory humidification
system which enables humidity and/or temperature control of
the humidified
gases to be achieved. The gases flow probed according to
one embodiment of the
present invention enables accurate flow rate measurements
to be made without
condensation affecting the sensor. In part this increased
accuracy is also due
to the locating system which ensures correct alignment of
the flow and/or
temperature probe in the gases flow. Due to the ability to
accurately sense
flow rate with this flow sensor, the control systems
according to the present
invention are able to provide a gases flow to the patient

which is controlled to a required humidity. The flow rate sensor also enables "automatic" control to be achieved whereby the user is not required to constantly monitor the output of the humidifier and to alter inputs to achieve desired changes, the user is merely required to inform the humidifier of the patient's gases delivery situation and the humidifier is able to provide the required gases temperature and humidity without further user input. The humidifier also displays a gases temperature value which is clinically relevant to the gases reaching the patient. In addition, the respiratory humidification according to other preferred embodiments of the present invention encompasses various safety improvements over the prior art.